

16. (Canceled)

17. (Previously Amended) The method defined in claim 9 wherein the terminating of said bidding includes operating said host computer to transmit over a global computer network a bidding termination signal to computers associated with said bidding investors.

**REMARKS**

Claims 1, 3-9, 12, 13, 15, and 17 are pending in the application. Claims 2, 10, 11, 14, and 16 were canceled previously.

This Amendment is to respond to the objection to the claims. Claim 12 is amended herein.

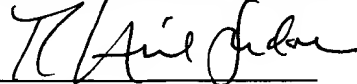
Claim 8 was amended to include two additional steps which further limit the scope of the claim.

The other rejections are appealed. A Notice of Appeal is enclosed herewith.

Should the Examiner believe that direct contact with applicant's attorney would advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number below.

Respectfully submitted,

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